



COVID-19 Update: EFAC Students

Updated: July 2020

To Our EFAC Family and Friends:

Like each of you, we remain deeply concerned about the global coronavirus pandemic and hope you are healthy and safe. Following, please find an update on EFAC as we continue to monitor and support our students in Kenya.

Along with much of Africa, Kenya's government moved quickly to enact restrictive measures to thwart the spread of the virus, including the closure of all schools. While Kenya is faring relatively well with regard to containing the virus, challenges such as food insecurity and lack of digital access loom large for our students.

With thanks to a successful COVID-relief fundraising drive, EFAC is addressing these needs in the following ways. 1) We are providing food relief for our students based in urban slums, where hunger is on the rise; 2) We purchased smartphones for all 340 secondary scholars so that their education can continue remotely. Each smartphone is loaded with memory, data, and educational software; and 3) We are providing our college students with stipends for additional data, so that they can use their laptops to access online schooling, search for digital jobs, and hone their tech skills. With no news from Kenya's Ministry of Education on a return-to-school date, EFAC is doing all we can to keep our secondary and post-secondary students learning and engaged.

As an organization, we have successfully pivoted to remote work and programming. All staff on both continents are working from home, and using Zoom and other virtual platforms to keep EFAC humming. As a global organization, we were well-accustomed to these tools, so this has been a natural shift for us.

Our Kenya team is in contact with all 600 students and over 100 Alumni. Our sponsors and donors have stepped up their support, engagement, and partnership. Thank you! We are banding together to ensure that our EFAC kids are safe and healthy, and that their educational journeys will not be permanently disrupted as Kenya and the world adjust to a new reality.

While uncertainty swirls around all of us, the EFAC family has never felt more united. Our commitment to our scholars is unwavering, and our gratitude to our supporters is profound.

If you have questions or concerns about a specific EFAC scholar, please reach out to [Tracey Melchior](#). For all other inquiries, please contact [Blair Demers](#) (U.S.) or [Mary Kiguru](#) (Kenya).

Thank you for being on this journey with us.

Resources on COVID - Africa/Kenya

[Gates Foundation](#): *Africa: In the fight against COVID-19, an unsung continent*

[New York Times](#): *Coronavirus Accelerates Across Africa*

[Virus Data in Kenya](#) *Total Coronavirus Cases in Kenya*

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